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9

number
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SEED



Volume 9, Number 13 of the Seed, a biweekly published in Chicago, welcomes you to its pages. This issue is dated April 8th, 1974, and is copyright (c) by Dummy Corporation. Anyone wanting to write us or send us money can do so at 2566 North Lincoln, Chicago Illinois 60614. Subscriptions are \$10.00 for 26 issues, ad rates on request. Next issue due out April 22, copy deadline is April 17th in case you want to write for us, and we hope you do.

INTERCOURSE

Leather Craftsman wanted to make sandals and related leather items. north side, call 328-5161.

A youthful and unique rock program (Radio Warp at 97.1 FM) in Chicago needs hustling ad spot salesperson. Fat commissions and opportunities for the right person. For more info leave message for Jerry at 973-5400.

Wanted! Damnfool idiot. Must be dumb & crazy enough to sit here at 5 in the morning and pound a noisy, cantankerous typewriter. No pay, ridiculous hours, bad working conditions. Don't bother applying.

New or old neon signs - any kind, any shape even if they don't work. Do you know of one or have one? Call Charlotte, 465-9152.

Rare and hard to find beads; stone, shell, metal, bone, amber, glass; necklaces, bracelets, earrings, rings. Scheherazade's, 2246 Clark downstairs.

Pottery, sculpture, handcrafted jewelry, leathercraft, custom embroidery, hand-crafted candles. Plus classes in weaving, macrame, crocheting, photography, sewing, quilting and art are now available at the NEW TOWN CREATIVE WORKSHOP, 2917 N. Broadway, Chicago Ill, (312)-281-9538.

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Geek needs chickens and/or snakes. Box 32, Seed.

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men which by we must be saved. Acts 4:12, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9, 10, 935-2120. Jesus really loves you. With God's love, a love earth doesn't know of.

The Dream Theater announces Sunday Matinee Specials of "Pure Desire". 2:30pm, Center Theater, Body Politic, 2259 North Lincoln, \$1.00 admission.

Batteries Not Included presents: Bunny, a one act drama written by Brad Wetherell, directed by Bob Hofmeister & Lorell Wyatt, Thurs & Fri eves at 8:30 from Fri April 26 through May 31. Church of the Three Crosses, 1900 N. Sedgewick. Donations.

Guru Maharaj Ji eats lettuce.

I am interested in discussing philosophy with learned students fascinated by the subject. C. Peterson, 6619 Rhodes, Chicago Ill.

All classified ads are free, though a donation of some kind would be nice. MAIL all ads etc to See, 2566 N. Lincoln, Chicago 60614. Don't bother sending in sex solicitation ads - we don't run them and we're sick of explaining why.

Reading by Donna Reader & Advisor. Card reading, Horoscope with this ad \$3.00. 2246 N. Clark, first floor, apt. Call 871-4415.

Wanted: Used Fender amp. Prefer Twin or Reverb. Case can be banged up; grill cloth torn, but must have all knobs, controls, tubes, etc intact. Will Pay Reasonable Price. Call 973-0641.

The Native American Program, Chicago Circle Campus, invites you to O KA WI TA, second Native American Cultural Exposition, April 9, 10, 11, at the Illinois Room of Circle Center, U of I Circular Campus, free(!) admission, 10am to 5pm Tuesday & Wednesday; 10am to 3pm Thursday. For more info call 996-4515 down there at circ.

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WONDER WART-HOG
TAKES A BRIEF SOJOURN IN
OUTER SPACE

© 1974 BY GILBERT SHELTON WITH S. CLAY WILSON AND ROBERT WILLIAMS



OVER THAT WAY

UP

with the

R.
T.
A.
!

The Regional Transportation Authority Bill passed by the slimmest of majorities, disappointing great hordes of suburban honkies and urban "movement" idiots.

It is fairly easy to understand why those fools out in the suburbs didn't want the R.T.A. If there is a convenient method of carting poor people and minority folks out into Honkie Heaven, they might not only get a job but - who knows - they might even shop in those plush suburban shopping centers. And if R.T.A. eventually provides cross-suburban transportation, them poor folk might just start moving out there. And bring down property values.

Those fuckers understand one other thing as well. With an R.T.A. gasoline taxes

will go up, as will the price of a downtown parking space. Most suburbanites couldn't possibly think of existing without their mammoth eight barrel air foulers - let them pay \$3 a gallon for the privilege of messing over the air and paving the inner city with their expressways.

Sometimes I think the suburbanites think the city is a leper colony. I'm beginning to believe only the sane folks live in the city - the animals are the ones who carry their briefcases out of town in the Olds every night at 5.

Them freaks say the R.T.A. will allow Mayor Daley to take over the outer-county suburbs. Maybe so, but if they organize around it if and when it starts, there won't be a problem. The R.T.A. vote did prove those fuckers can

organize. Not many people showed up at the polls, but those that did voted against the bill. That's backyard politics even Mayor Daley can respect.

And, as much as it pains me to say this, Mayor Daley and his friends gave Chicago the best urban mass-transit system in the country the past two dozen years. Even with the service cutbacks and the fare increases, the C.T.A. provided comparatively fine service.

But those fools in the city, the so-called movement types and concerned citizen coalitions! Good lord, these people of all people should know better. Without an R.T.A. the following happenings are certain:

- 1) The C.T.A. will increase fares.
- 2) Poor people in the city cannot live with higher fares.
- 3) The C.T.A. will cut service.
- 4) Many people in Chicago need good non-rush hour service in order to make a living.
- 5) The fools from the suburbs will drive en masse into the city, taking up our parking spaces, our roads and our clean air (or what's left of it). Inner city travel will become impossible.

Within Chicago, the R.T.A. will not give Daley any more power than he already has with the C.T.A. With the R.T.A., the C.T.A. might be able to continue the lower fares for the aged and the quarter fares on Sundays. Maybe. The only guarantee is they won't be continued without the R.T.A.

The type of opposition the R.T.A. saw within Chicago would make one think the very people who claim to be acting in the interests of The People are, in fact, trying to prevent them from earning a living.

And R.T.A. might provide more service to the transportation-starved neighborhoods on the southwest side and the near south and southwest suburbs; working class neighborhoods all. The C.T.A. will not do so without it.

To be sure, the gas tax will be an additional burden on people who need automobiles to work - truck drivers, haulers, some taxi drivers and so on. Instead of putting down the R.T.A. and screwing everybody, people should support an additional gas tax to raise money which could be returned to those people who are in a totally dependent situation on their cars.

The rest of the drivers should damn well pay for their luxury - drivers in Europe and Asia have been paying \$1.25 a gallon or more for years - Americans are hardly getting the raw end of the deal.

Unless a court test trashes the R.T.A., it looks like we've made it. Politics really does make strange bedfellows, I suppose.

Roll over, Mr. Mayor. You're hogging too much of the blanket.

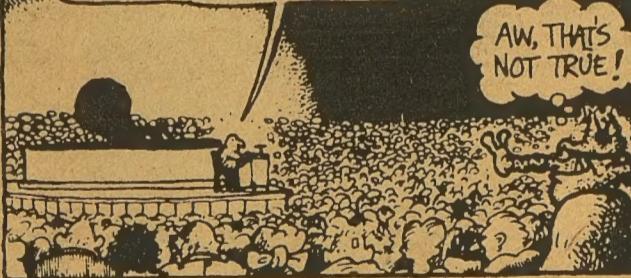
-Mike Gold

continued from page 2

THE TWO HOURS PASS IN A WINK FOR WONDER WART-HOG, ENDOWED AS HE IS WITH POWERS OF PATIENCE EQUAL TO A THOUSAND HOLY MEN



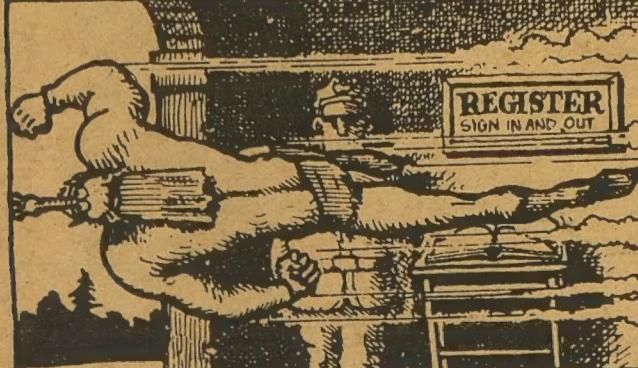
...AND BECAUSE OF THE VAST DISTANCES INVOLVED, IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANY OF US WILL EVER VISIT ANY OTHER PLANET THAT BEARS LIFE, SHOULD OUR OWN SOLAR SYSTEM PROVE TO CONTAIN NO OTHERS.



TRAVELING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, IT WOULD TAKE EIGHT YEARS TO MAKE A ROUND TRIP TO EVEN THE CLOSEST NEIGHBORING STAR!



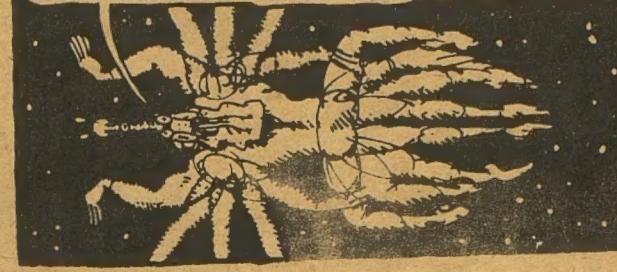
FASTER THAN THE HUMAN EYE CAN FOLLOW, THE PIG BOLTS FROM HIS SEAT AND OUT THE DOOR



UP THROUGH THE VARIOUS ATMOSPHERIC LAYERS STREAKS THE SWINE, ACCELERATING RAPIDLY



...ACCORDING TO THE KNOWN LAWS OF PHYSICS, I CANNOT GO AS FAST AS LIGHT, BUT I CAN GO ALMOST AS FAST, AND THE CLOSER I APPROACH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE MORE THE PHENOMENON OF TIME SLOWS DOWN!



THE REST OF IT'S ON THE BACK COVER

With the cost of living growing more expensive every day, all of us are being forced to become more and more careful about how we spend our money. One expense, though, that we have virtually no control over is the amount of money taken in federal taxes by the government each year. It seems always to increase, whether our paychecks have gotten any larger or not. Sometimes we try to take comfort in the thought that no matter how much we pay, it's very little compared to the far greater amount of money and percentage of income that the Treasury claims from the rich each year. After all, the Internal Revenue Service takes nearly 70% of the income of the very wealthy, don't they?

TAXING THE RICH

Federal income taxes are supposed to be raised progressively, which means that those who earn more are expected to pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes. The basic federal tax rates call for people who make over \$100,000 a year to pay 70% of that to the government. But in actual practice they pay, on the average, about 30% of their income in taxes.¹ In other words these families, who comprise less than half of 1% of the population, avoid paying \$11.4 billion each year by using the various loopholes and tax gimmicks at their disposal.² According to one estimate published in the Congressional Record (Vol. 188 no. 142 Sept. 13, 1972), that money would be enough to bring all of America's 25½ million poor above the poverty line.

CORPORATE TAXES

The figures on corporate tax payments are perhaps even more alarming. The tax code calls for 48% of all profits over \$25,000, and most small businesses do pay reasonably close to that rate. But the 100 largest U.S. corporations, who in 1971 took in more than half of all industrial profits made in this country, paid at an average rate of only 25%.³ ITT, whose reported profits were well over \$400 million in 1971, paid only 5% of its earnings to the government. Alcoa Aluminum, whose net profits that year were more than \$50 million, paid no taxes at all. By using the right deductions and loopholes, America's 100 largest corporations managed to save themselves over \$3.1 billion in 1971.⁴

In 1970 and 1971, nine of the largest corporations in the country had highly profitable years but paid nothing at all in federal taxes.

Corporation	Net Profits in 1970	Taxes Paid
Bethlehem Steel	\$122 million	0
Con Edison	\$110 million	0
U.S. Steel	\$109 million	0
National Steel	\$ 73 million	0
Republic Steel	\$ 18 million	0
Corporation	Net Profits in 1971	Taxes Paid
Alcoa Aluminum	\$ 50 million	0
Gulf and Western	\$ 51 million	0
Continental Oil	\$109 million	0
McDonnell Douglas	\$145 million	0

Source: Cong. Record Vol. 118 H6713, July 19, 1972

THE COST TO US

Tax dodging by the rich results in an increase in everyone else's taxes and contributes to cutbacks in federal spending, because of the loss of tax revenue. In 1971 the combined total tax savings of families whose incomes were over \$100,000 and the wealthiest 100 corporations amounted to \$14.5 billion. If this money had been collected by Internal Revenue, the government could have

- Constructed 500 high schools: \$8 billion
- Built 66,000 low cost houses: \$1 billion
- tripled the amount of money being spent on medical research: \$5.5 billion

(Based on proposed Federal Budgets for 1973 and 1974).

And this is just the tip of the iceberg. It is estimated that a total of \$77 billion is lost each year through tax loopholes, and that most of that money remains in the pockets of the rich and the privileged.⁵

TAX LOOPHOLES

"If income taxes were 90% percent, we'd figure a way."
—W. Clement Stone

The federal tax code, besides establishing the basic rates for various income brackets, also allows for a great many deductions and exemptions that can be used to lower the total tax payment. Some of these are regularly used by all of us, such as the personal exemption, the minimum standard deduction, or the social security deduction, to name just a few. But aside from the dozen or so relatively common loopholes, there exists a whole range of deductions that are used almost exclusively by corporations and the very wealthy. The graph below shows that these tax gimmicks lead to savings many times greater than the amount of money saved by ordinary taxpayers using the more common deductions.

Annual Income	How much the loopholes save you each year, according to your income,
\$ 7,500	\$340
\$22,200	\$1,930



Source: "Individual Income Tax Erosion," Pechman-Oker, Brookings Reprint 230, 5/72.

CAPITAL GAINS DEDUCTIONS

'Capital Gains' are the profits a person makes through the sale of stocks, bonds, land, buildings, and certain other forms of property. These profits are taxed in a special manner — at no more than half the rate at which taxes are levied on the rest of the person's income. Only one person in ten ever makes use of this deduction. But since more than 82% of the average U.S. millionaire's income is in capital gains, this deduction is extremely important. Those families whose annual income is over \$1 million save, on the average, \$641,000 a year through the capital gains loophole. On the other hand, those of us who make under \$10,000 save less than eight dollars a year with this deduction.⁶

OIL DEPLETION ALLOWANCE

Oil men, (and mineral industries in general) have been favored with one of the most lucrative tax loopholes in existence — 'percentage depletion,' more commonly known as the Oil Depletion Allowance. Put simply, this deduction has the effect of making tax-free 22% of an oil company's annual earnings. This loophole is often defended by the oil industry as being a necessary incentive to the rather costly and risky exploration of new oil wells. The Treasury Department, however, released a study in 1969 which showed that only 10% of the money saved through this deduction was actually being invested in exploration. In 1971 the oil industry avoided paying \$1.3 billion in taxes by using this loophole.⁷ That is nearly seven times as much money as the government spent on job-training for veterans that year.

Almost all of this money goes to the major oil companies. The box below shows the percentage of income paid in taxes by some of the largest oil corporations in 1971.

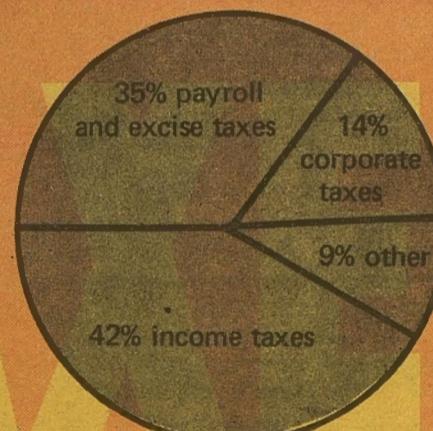
Corporation	Profits Before Taxes	% Paid in Taxes
Gulf	\$1300 million	2.3%
Texaco	\$1300 million	2.3%
Mobil	\$1100 million	7.4%
Standard (Cal)	\$ 800 million	1.6%
Exxon	\$2700 million	7.7%

Source: Oil Week, Aug. 21, 1972

According to former Senator Fred Harris, these cases are not isolated examples. He cites the fact that the 18 largest oil companies paid only 6.7% of their income in federal taxes that year.

WHO ACTUALLY PAYS

The proposed federal budget for 1974 comes to nearly \$250 billion. Where is that money coming from? Most of us have been led to believe that we have a progressive federal tax code, so we often assume that most federal revenues come from taxes on rich individuals and corporations. However, we have seen that numerous loopholes and tax gimmicks help the wealthy to avoid this burden. The overall picture is described in the 'tax pie' below, taken from the Federal Budget 1974, which illustrates just who is footing the bill for government:



It is important to remember here that payroll and excise taxes are levied regressively — which means they are paid almost entirely by ordinary working people, not the rich. Many economists also believe that corporate taxes are actually paid by the consumer in the form of higher prices. And less than half of all income taxes are paid by the 20% of the people who own and control 77% of all the wealth in the United States. These statistics taken together suggest that federal taxes as a whole are hardly based on the principle of 'ability to pay.'⁸

POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND TAX BREAKS

Tax breaks for the rich are the result of the enormous amount of political power wielded by the largest and wealthiest corporations in America. The oil industry offers a good example of this relation between business and government. Through campaign contributions and friends in high places, the major oil companies have managed for a number of years to pay taxes at a rate much lower than the ordinary taxpayer.

Friends in Washington

John Connally: former Secretary of the Treasury and special adviser to Nixon. For years was attorney to Texas oil millionaire Sid Richardson. Governor of Texas. During one of his recent stays at the White House a consortium of oil and pipeline companies secured a \$10 billion oil and gas exploration deal with the Soviet Union. Connally was formerly a director of two of these companies, Tenneco and Texas Eastern. Both are clients of his law firm.

Claude Brinegar: Secretary of Transportation, past director of Union Oil and former director of the American Petroleum Institute.

William Clements: Under-Secretary of Defense. A self-made oil millionaire, two of his former business partners are currently under indictment for tax evasion. Both have fled the country to avoid prosecution.

George Bush: Chairman of the Republican Party, co-founder of the Zapata Petroleum Corp.

Lyndon Johnson: our former President, well known for his efforts over the years on behalf of the oil industry. Johnson, while a Senator from Texas, once wrote to TIPRO, the Texas oilmen's association, and said, "I am here (in Washington) trying to fight the organization's battles every day." (Sept., 1954, TIPRO Reporter.)

Campaign Contributions

In the 1972 presidential campaign, executives and major stockholders of oil companies contributed over \$2 million to Nixon's re-election effort, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Ashland Oil has admitted to making an illegal contribution of \$100,000 to the Nixon campaign (N.Y. Times, July 21, 1972).

Robert Allen, president of Gulf Resources and Chemical Corp., gave \$100,000 to the Nixon campaign fund. \$89,000 of that, after being laundered through a Mexico City bank, ended up in the bank account of Watergate defendant Bernard Barker.

TAX REFORM

In 1971 Congress passed legislation to 'reform' the tax structure. According to Senator Gaylord Nelson, this law reduced corporation taxes by about 15% — one of the greatest corporate reductions in history. By mid-1972, according to a report by the pro-business banking firm of Goldman, Sachs & Co., the share of corporate profits taken in taxes had already dropped 10% as a result of this legislation.

The 1971 law represents just the most recent step in the 20-year old process of drastically lightening the tax burden on the rich. In 1953 U.S. corporations were paying about 37% of their profits to the government. By 1969 the average business paid only 29% of its earnings to the Treasury — despite the fact that the stipulated basic corporation tax rate has remained essentially unchanged.⁹

In 1952 the wealthiest 1% of all families in America were paying 33% of their income in taxes. By 1967 they were paying at a rate of only 26%.¹⁰

For the rest of us, the situation is just the reverse. Payroll taxes, whose burden falls almost entirely on working people, have increased by 600% since 1954.¹¹ Property and sales taxes, also levied regressively, have more than doubled in that same period.¹² As a result payroll taxes now account for over 29% of federal revenues, while in 1954 they amounted to only 10% of all taxes paid to the government. Corporate taxes, on the other hand, now furnish less than 1/6 of the total tax collection, though they accounted for nearly 1/3 of all taxes paid in 1954.

While this has been happening our newspapers have been filled with reports of skyrocketing corporate profits, coupled with an ever increasing rate of inflation. During the first 3 months of this year, corporate profits were half again as great as they were in the same period last year. Our average wages, however, have not even increased enough to keep up with the current 6.8% inflation rate, the highest in 22 years.

THE FUTURE

We can no longer put up with 'tax reform' that means more tax breaks for the rich. What we need is a movement of taxpayers to demand that our government close the loopholes and levy taxes based on one's ability to pay, as prescribed in our original tax codes. Until we do this, the wealthy and privileged will continue to avoid paying their fair share. And we, the average taxpayers, will be forced to make up the difference.

1. Cong. Record vol. 12, S1051, 1973.

2. *Rape of The Taxpayer*, Philip Stern, p.9.

3. Cong. Record vol. 118 No. 142, 9/13/72

4. Based on the above report and *Fortune* magazine's top 500 corporations for 1972.

5. "Individual Income Tax Erosion," Pechman-Oker, Brookings Reprint 230 5/72.

6. Ibid.

7. Tax Reform Studies and Proposals, U.S. Treasury, 1969.

8. *Inequality and Poverty*, Edward Budd.

9. *Federal Tax Policy*, Joseph Pechman, P. 118.

10. *Rape of the Taxpayer*, p. 12.

11. *Federal Tax Policy*, p. 288.

12. "The Rich, The Poor, and The Taxes They Pay", Pechman, *The Public Interest*, Fall, 1969.

13. Commerce Dept. report, 7/19/73.

—Political Education Project

GRANDDADDY WAS GAY

The Homosexual Rights Movement (1864-1935)
John Lauritsen and David Thorstad

This little pamphlet is an informative capsule history of early organizational efforts of proud, freedom-loving homosexuals. The authors argue that in fact the current gay liberation movement should be considered a "second wave." Sadly, the authors point out, "the history of the first wave of gay liberation has been almost entirely suppressed and, thanks to the efforts of Stalinism and Nazism, many traces of it obliterated."

To trace the early history of gay liberation, we go first to Germany. There we meet Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, a German homosexual who, in 1864, wrote his first "social and juridical studies on the riddle of love between men." These were entitled "Vindex" and "Inclusa." Ulrichs and other early homosexual rights thinkers put forth the notion that homosexuals were a "third sex," and although like authors John Lauritsen and David Thorstad, I believe this is a "mistaken" notion, it is clear that Ulrich's purpose is to place homosexuality within nature, and so the authors are correct in identifying Ulrichs as "the grandfather of gay liberation."

Tracing the campaign of German homosexuals and their supporters against Paragraph 175 (the German legal code's anti-gay law, passed in 1870), the author's research led them to the Scientific Humanitarian Committee, founded in 1897 by Magnus Hirschfeld, a Jewish physician. Dr. Hirschfeld's struggle as a gay rights advocate is strikingly similar to that of present-day activists. It is a little scary, however, to think that he did it all way back then! Hirschfeld engaged in scientific research, he

was an indefatigable public speaker (traveling to many nations), and he lobbied in the political arena (one of the German gays' staunchest supporters was August Bebel, the famous Social-Democratic leader). Hirschfeld and his colleagues circulated petitions, wrote pamphlets, and even made a gay-and-proud movie (apparently no copies are extant).

The efforts of the Scientific Humanitarian Committee (which had dozens of chapters and branches) led to the opening in 1919 of the Institute for Sexual Science, "truly a forerunner of the Kinsey Institute for Sex Research." In the early 1920's, Hirschfeld was attacked and nearly killed by anti-semites, and before long, in 1933, Nazi thugs invaded and destroyed the Institute. Hirschfeld went into exile in France, hoping to rebuild the institute, but he died in 1935.

The authors of this pamphlet cover early gay rights efforts in other nations, including Holland, England and the Soviet Union. They show clearly that socialist tradition prior to the rise of Stalinism tended to support the struggle of homosexuals, indeed, that many of the early homosexual spokesmen, such as Britain's Whitmanesque personality Edward Carpenter, were socialists and/or pacifists. As for the United States, the authors state that there "does not appear to have been much, if any, organized gay rights activity" during the period covered by their research. They note, however, that "one of the first, if not the first, public supporters of gay rights in the United States was Emma Goldman." They quote the famous anarchist's statements in support of homosexual freedom, resulting at least in part from her familiarity with the work of Dr. Hirshfeld. Goldman wrote:

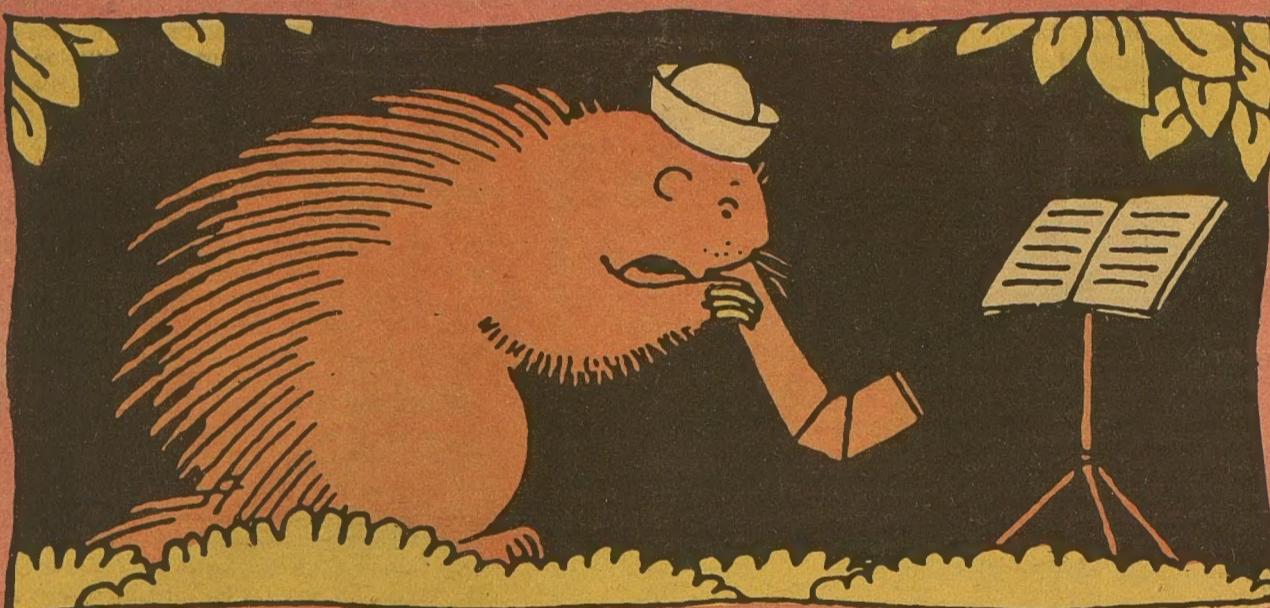
"Even years ago when I still knew nothing about sex psychology and my own familiarity with homosexuals was limited to a few women whom I got to know in jail, where I wound up because of my political convictions, I firmly stood up in defense of Oscar Wilde. As an anarchist, my place has always been alongside the persecuted. The entire trial and conviction of Wilde struck me as an act of horrible injustice and repulsive hypocrisy on the part of the society that had condemned this man."

The historical account in this pamphlet is fascinating and inspiring. It is presented in a straightforward and useful manner. I think it is unfortunate, however, that the authors do not provide footnotes or a bibliography. Such academic trappings are often a bore, but in this case, since we are dealing with such new ground, it would be useful.

Some of the same historical data, by the way, has appeared in an excellent series of articles by Jim Steakley in the *Body Politic*, a gay liberation paper published in Toronto. Steakley's articles, unlike this pamphlet, examine some of the internal contradictions within the early gay movement and seem to include a feminist-oriented analysis of the period. A segment of the gay movement, according to Steakley, confused gay rights with worship of masculinity, and this segment supported early Nazism.

For a copy of this pamphlet, send 50¢ to Lauritsen/Thorstad, 316 E. 11 St., New York NY 10003. For the Steakley articles on early gay history, send 80¢ (for two issues) to the *Body Politic*, 139 Seaton St., Toronto, Ont. M5A 2T2.

Allen Young



Thinking back a bit, I doubt I've ever reviewed a Paul Simon album before. This is odd, as I was particularly fond of Simon and Garfunkel when I was in high school - I even did a term paper analyzing one of Simon's early songs.

I liked what I heard of Simon's first two solo albums almost in spite of myself. The songs were very cute - they didn't have much in the way of substance, but they sort of struck a chord somewhere in my psyche.

I suppose that is why Simon's music is so popular. Like a Jules Feiffer cartoon, Simon writes and sings about human experiences, using image-provoking words which draw the listener into the vocal scenario.

After hearing a few tracks from Simon's first live album, I decided to pick up my first Paul Simon album in five years. *Live Rhymin'* (*Paul Simon in Concert*) on Columbia certainly needs no review from the *Seed*: It'll sell a million dollars worth before this issue disappears from the stands.

But it's popularity doesn't make it any less of a fine album - Simon, in addition to his often-discussed lyrics, is a fine singer and a breath of fresh air in the fog of Jim Posts and John Denvers.

This, like most live records, is really an unmasked "greatest hits" package. The songs include "Me and Julio Down By the Schoolyard," "Homeward Bound," "The Boxer," "Mother and Child Reunion," "The Sound of

Silence" and "Loves Me Like a Rock."

Simon's albums are known for their fine production, and *Live Rhymin'* is no exception. With musical and vocal accompaniment from Urubamba and the Jessy Dixon Singers, Simon dances the gauntlet from folk to latin to gospel music.

The only trouble is - on the album jacket photo, Paul Simon looks like he has aged - oh, about five years. That really destroys the nostalgia rush.

An album that doesn't need to be masked at all is the new Grateful Dead collection, *Skeletons From the Closet*, subtitled "Grateful Dead (The Best Of)."

Now that the Dead set up their own label, Warner Brothers can look over all that previously released material and release greatest hits records annually for the rest of the decade.

(A digression: There are several thousand tapes of Grateful Dead concerts lurking around, some of which are both good and of high audio quality. These albums will be released like *Bear's Choice* on the Dead's own label. They are not necessarily greatest hits collections.)

Like on the Paul Simon record, the selection of songs speaks for itself:

"The Golden Road," "Truckin,'" "Rosemary," "Sugar Magnolia," "St. Stephen," "Uncle John's Band," "Casey Jones," "Mexicali Blues," "Turn on Your Love Light," "One More Saturday Night," and "Friend of the

Devil."

That's a very strong statement.

Of course, if you own all those early studio albums (and haven't worn them out yet), *Skeletons From the Closet* isn't for you, unless you are a Very Profound Grateful Dead freak.

And profound Dead freaks are a very large group.

Complaints on the Andy Frain rent-a-pig service policing Chicago's rock concerts are a dime a dozen, but there seems to be an overdose of bad vibes coming down these days on the men and women in borrowed blue.

Various charges made against these folk include open hostility towards concert patrons (some of whom are deserving of such treatment), unnecessary harassment during concerts, roughing up those too stoned to find their seats and general assholedness.

The one I've heard recently that bothers me the most - and I've heard this from many people - is that certain Frain ushers are refusing to unseat people who steal other folk's seats when those other folks show up. The choice the latecomer has is between stealing someone else's seat and risking a fight to unseat the usurper. Of course, if there is a fight, both parties are quite likely to get thrown out.

This sort of piggishness on the part of the Frain ushers should not be tolerated, and concert promoters owe it to their customers to do all they can about it. Do you hear me, Flip Side folks?

My last two items come from Variety, the "bible of the showbiz world."

1) Variety reports Paul McCartney as saying the final settlement of the Beatles' financial interests is near completion; the whole matter could be cleared up within a month. The Beatles could not record or perform together until such matters are cleared up, and both John Lennon and Paul McCartney have recently expressed an interest in getting the one time Fab Four together for occasional reunion-type work.

The Beatles' individual lawyers have been meeting regularly during the past several weeks.

2) Filmmaker Ken Russell ("Women in Love," "The Devils") has already cast Ann Margret, Eric Clapton, Tina Turner, Elton John and the Who for his bizarre adaptation of *Tommy*. Roger Daltrey, the Who's lead singer, has been cast in the lead. Wierd man, that Russell.

-Mike Gold

An Open Letter to the Black Community

We, the prisoners of Stateville, are sending this Open Letter to all concerned members of the community, urging you to take notice of the situation here.

The recent death by fire of George Carney was the most widely publicized of incidents here resulting from the unceasing beatings and harassment of Stateville "correctional" officers.

These so-called "correctional" officers have intensified their campaign to mislead the public by spreading rumors that various organizations here in Stateville "control" the institution and are constantly at each other's throat.

The actual situation is just the opposite. It should be obvious that prisoners have never "controlled" this or any other prison in America, because if this was so then there would be no one behind these walls.

The false allegation that groups are about to initiate bloodbaths can best be shown false if concerned citizens would make a trip down here to talk to prisoners and notice the emblem now showing on sweatshirts of Black prisoners.

Across the front of our sweatshirts are an emblem on two clasped Black hands, and the words "Black (Family) Unity" - Eusi (Jamaa) Umoja. These shirts are worn by all Black prisoners in Stateville, as well as other prisons in Illinois.

The administration is now trying to use this action toward Unity on our part as a means of justifying their continued repression, saying that it represents a movement to "tear up the joint." They have claimed that their program of "unit management" was designed to reduce the influence of Black organizations and prevent violence to both prisoners and officers.

What they actually mean is that they don't want Brothers to continue to increase their political consciousness, rise in their

levels of commitment to working constructively for the community, or coming together under one purpose.

A check of their records will show who is being brutalized, killed, crippled for life both physically and mentally, and who is committing this violence. The fact that no officers have been buried, or crippled, or hospitalized, shows who has used the most restraint, exercised mature judgement and worked to devise methods of reaching rational ends without resorting to violence.

It is the "correctional" officers who have devised a plan to force prisoners to the wall, hoping that we will act against our interest and give them an excuse to exercise their animal instincts, show that "reform" or "humane treatment for prisoners" will not work in Illinois, so that they can again live lives like massa on the plantation, or the lord of the fiefdom. Since certain changes have come to the Illinois prison system, and particularly to Stateville, wardens, captains and lieutenants cannot live on State property rent-free, and they must now pay for their meals. They can no longer take the steaks from the prisoner cold storage house, leaving us the hot dogs; it is now more difficult for them to steal inmate commissary funds and other monies from the various funds and money making industries of this and other state penal institutions.

The prisoners of all institutions in the State are being made pawns in political games, just as Black people have always been exploited so that those in control of social institutions can benefit. One of the reasons that they are so against activity among Black prisoners is that we are educating ourselves and our families to the means of our oppression - and of our liberation!

While the administration has sought to divide us, we have sought to bring ourselves

together, to learn to love one another and to work together under the banner of Black Family Unity - Eusi Jamaa Umoja.

It is Black Family Unity first because we recognize that we are all One, we have the same concerns, the same goals. It is one small example of the effort by Black people all over the world to come together and work in harmony and with a single will.

Secondly, we say Black Family Unity because this prison holds in confinement men who are sons, fathers, brothers, cousins and uncles. We are Black men, from the Black community, who have unbreakable ties with every person in that community, especially our immediate families.

Anything affecting us affects our families, and vice versa. Understanding this, we approach Black Family Unity as an instrument, an instrument to be used not only to end injustice behind these walls, but to extend itself, to reach into our homes and into the community, to become a part of all positive movement there, to give our children and other family/community members a share of identity, purpose and direction.

We think it's vitally important that this effort toward Black Family Unity on our part be made known and be understood for its relevancy and potential.

These people are trying their best to instigate trouble so that they can close this institution. They are spreading rumors - propaganda - laying the ground so that they can be justified in the eyes of the public. We want our side of the story told, so that the truth can be known.

Pamoja Tutashinda (Together We Will Win)
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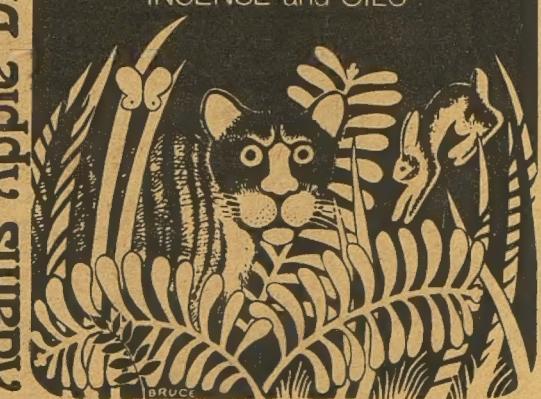
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The C.I.A. Skulks in Thailand

In the wake of a CIA forgery incident which sparked fresh demonstrations by the student movement, Thailand's new civilian government has shown itself nearly as wedded to U.S. foreign policy as was the military dictatorship it replaced.

But the students, who led protests that toppled the military dictatorship last October, and growing numbers of citizens are questioning the U.S. role in their country, long regarded as a friendly haven for the U.S. in Asia.

National feeling was inflamed in early January when a letter to prime minister Sanya Dharamsakti, purporting to be a cease-fire proposal from a Thai insurgent leader, turned out to be the work of an American CIA agent. The incident received wide attention from Thailand's newly-unfettered press. Government officials made wrist-slapping statements, and US ambassador William Kintner, himself a former CIA agent, apologized publicly and privately to Thai leaders.

The government took no action, however, on proposals to curtail CIA activities in Thailand. This step is being demanded by many Thais, only now discovering the extent to which the United States has used their country as a base of military and "intelligence" operations.

The magnitude of U.S. presence here is not measured in the number of troops, now reduced to 35,000 from 45,000 at the height of the Vietnam war. Vital to U.S. military interests are Thailand's six major air bases, which served as headquarters for U.S. bombing raids against Indochina. Technically Thai-owned but operated by U.S. forces, they are the only U.S. air bases on the Asian mainland.

Thailand has long been a center for U.S. clandestine operations as well. A National Security Council memo of August 20, 1954, later published in the Pentagon Papers, proposed to make Thailand "the focal point of U.S. covert and psychological operations in southeast Asia." For twenty years, the CIA has been close to the succession of military regimes which have governed Thailand.

In the early 1950's, the Sea Supply Company, a CIA front with headquarters in Miami, channeled millions of dollars worth of equipment to Thai police.

When armed insurgents began to attack government outposts and police stations in the early 1960's, the CIA was on hand with money, equipment and advisors for counter-insurgency efforts, which still flourish today. In 1970-72, the agency recruited and trained a Thai mercenary force for service in Laos.

The New York Times recently placed the number of CIA operatives - termed "case officers" by the American embassy - in Thailand at 150. Udorn, site of the second largest U.S. air base, is also CIA headquarters for clandestine operations in Laos.

The agency maintains four major intelligence evaluation centers in northeastern Thailand, center of insurgent activity. Operatives advise the Thai military and police on intelligence gathering and analysis. In addition, they maintain their own intelligence network, complete with locally hired agents. This practice is apparently ignored by the Thai government.

A few days after the CIA letter incident, a crowd of 4,000, mainly students, rallied outside the U.S. embassy in Bangkok, shouting anti-American slogans and waving posters reading: "The CIA is worse than the communists" and "CIA get out of Thailand!"

In Udorn, 2,000 students burned protest wreaths in front of the U.S. consulate, demanding total withdrawal of U.S. troops and an end to CIA operations. Watching the Bangkok demonstrations a middle-aged man commented, "Under the old government we weren't even allowed to talk about such things."

Resentment has not been soothed by the revelation that Ambassador Kintner, appointed before last October's uprising, was formerly a CIA agent. Kintner's background, widely explored in the Thai press, includes 20 years in the U.S. army and a stint with the CIA during the Korean war. He denies any connection with the agency since.

More recently, Kintner has been director of the Pentagon-funded Foreign Policy Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, and a staunch advocate of a strong U.S. military stance in Asia.

Demands for his ouster, following the CIA incident, have been ignored by the government. In a major policy address, foreign minister Charunphan Isarangkun na Ayuthaya declared: "The United States is in a position to restore and safeguard peace and stability effectively and to assist the countries in the area in their task for development and progress." And prime minister Sanya, promising investigations of the CIA role, praised the agency for its "useful activity" in "monitoring the opium traffic."

Meanwhile, American advisors continue to train Cambodian pilots and infantry at Thai camps, U.S. reconnaissance jets equipped with infra-red cameras take off from Udorn Airbase to spy on insurgent-controlled portions of Laos and Cambodia, and American transport planes daily fly munitions from Utapao, the B-52 base in southeastern Thailand, to Phnom Penh.

Following a recent tour of the Udorn airbase, a correspondent for the prestigious Far Eastern Economic Review reported evidence that U.S. pilots are still flying combat missions from Thailand, in violation of cease-fire agreements.

Will a constitutionally elected government be more responsive to popular anti-U.S. feeling than the present leaders appointed by the King? Elections will presumably be held this spring, after the National Assembly finishes drafting a new constitution.

People here are beginning to wonder how the U.S. would respond to any anti-American move by a Thai government. Replying to rumors that the CIA might sponsor a Chile-like coup, Defense Minister Dawee Chullasapya declared recently, "That could never occur in Thailand."

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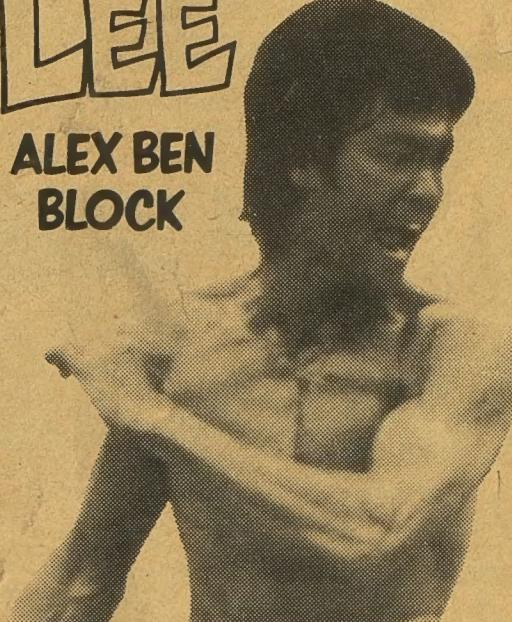
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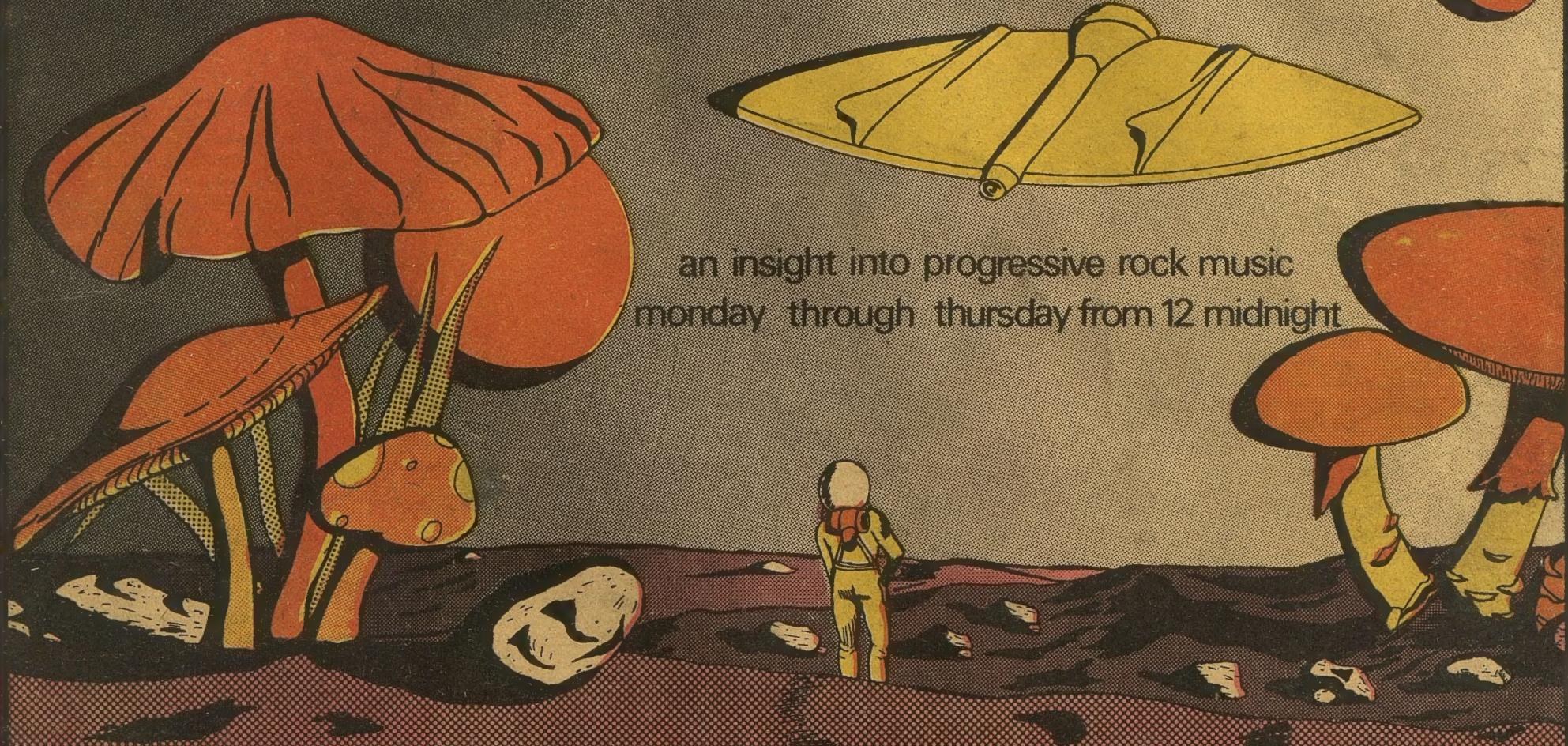
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE

...AND SO, ALTHOUGH I AM ACTUALLY TRAVELING ONLY A FRACTION MORE THAN 186,000 MILES PER SECOND, IT ONLY TAKES ME A FEW MINUTES TO REACH ANY PLACE I WANT!

EDITOR'S NOTE: THERE IS ALSO A TEMPORARY DEFORMATION IN THE DIRECTION OF MOTION AT THIS HIGH SPEED. AN APPARENT SHRINKING WHICH, LIKE THE TIME SLOWDOWN, IS UNOBSERVABLE BY THE HOG HIMSELF.

AFTER FIFTEEN MINUTES OF RANDOM SEARCH:

THERE'S A LIKELY-LOOKING LITTLE PLANET!



WOW, LOOK AT ALL THE OLD RUINS!

I'LL TAKE THIS BACK TO PROVE I WAS HERE!



I SHOULD BE BACK IN TIME FOR THE SIX O'CLOCK LECTURE!

WHOOPS, I MUST HAVE MISCALCULATED A BIT! THE CLOCK SAYS EIGHT AND EVERYONE IS GONE!

SIGN THE REGISTER ON YOUR WAY OUT, BUDDY!



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BUT, WHAT WONDER WART-HOG FORGOT IS THAT WHILE TIME HAD SLOWED FOR HIM, IT HAD GONE ON AS USUAL BACK ON THE PLANET EARTH

ALL I HAVE IS A FEW BUCKS!

(WOW! REAL PAPER! THAT'S WORTH A LOT TO A COLLECTOR!)

THAT'S OKAY BUDDY! IT'LL DO!

(SIGH) ... ALL MY MONEY GONE...
... ALL MY FRIENDS... (CHOKE) ... LONG DEAD...
THE ONLY THING I HAVE IN THE WORLD IS THIS WEIRD OLD ALIEN SKULL!
MAYBE I CAN GET A FEW BUCKS FOR IT!

SAY, MISTER, HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BUY...
OH, NEVER MIND...



MORAL: NEVER SIGN YOUR REAL NAME TO ANYTHING